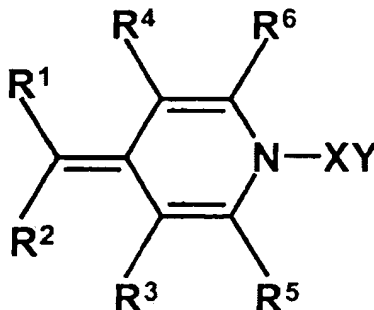


## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original): Compounds of the general formula I



wherein

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are identical or different electron-withdrawing groups or one of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is hydrogen and the other of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is an electron-withdrawing group,

$R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are independently selected from hydrogen atoms,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl groups,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkenyl groups,  $C_2$ - $C_{10}$  alkynyl groups,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl groups or  $C_6$ - $C_{10}$  aryl groups, the above groups being unsubstituted or optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl groups, halogen, hydroxy and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy groups, or  $R^3$  and  $R^5$  and/or  $R^4$  and  $R^6$  taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered ring which is optionally substituted with one to four substituents

selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl groups, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl groups,  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy groups, hydroxy or halogen,

X is a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group which is positively or negatively charged and

Y is a counterion.

2. (Original): Compound according to claim 1, wherein X is an alkyl, alkylaryl or alkyl cycloalkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group which is positively or negatively charged.

3. (Original): Compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkylene group containing optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group which is positively or negatively charged.

4. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein X contains 1 to 6 hetero atoms.

5. (Original): Compound according to claim 4, wherein the hetero atoms are selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and phosphor atoms.

6. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the group which is positively or negatively charged has one positive charge.

7. (Original): Compound according to claim 6, wherein the group which has one positive charge is a quaternary ammonium group.

8. (Original): Compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is a halogen atom.

9. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the group which is positively or negatively charged has one negative charge.

10. (Original): Compound according to claim 9, wherein the group which has one negative charge is selected from a group consisting of  $\text{-COO}^-$ ,  $\text{-O-SO}_3^-$  and  $\text{-O-P(=O)(OH)}_2$ .

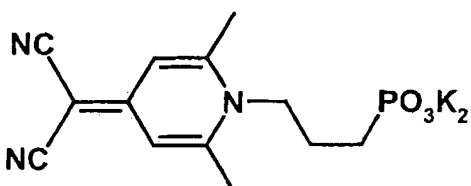
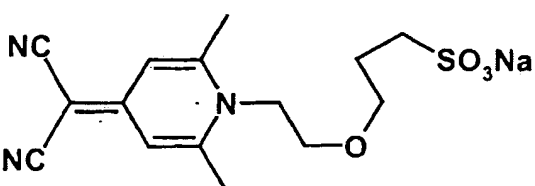
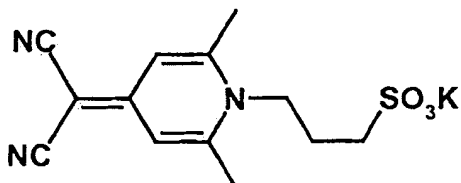
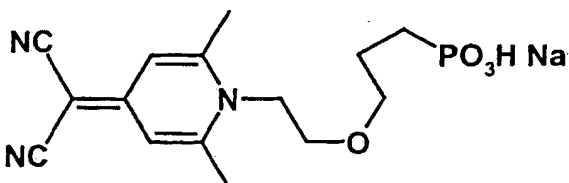
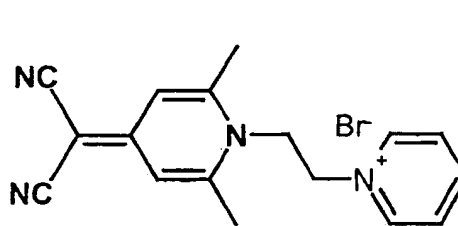
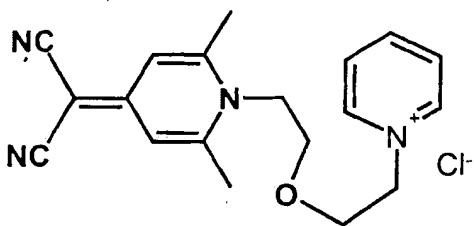
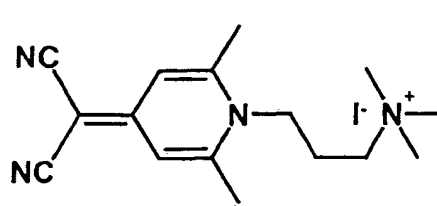
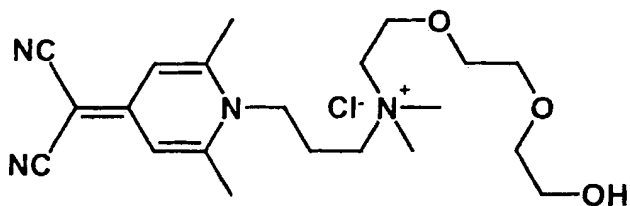
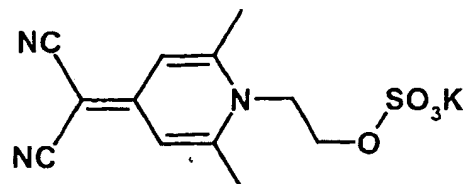
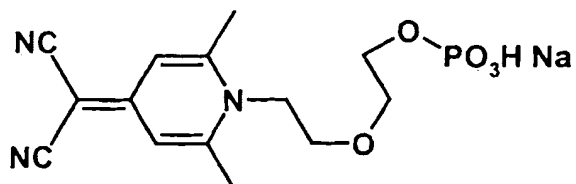
11. (Original): Compound according to claim 10, wherein Y is an alkaline metal atom, an earth alkaline metal atom, a triethanol ammonium ion, an aminomethylpropanol ion or a tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane ion.

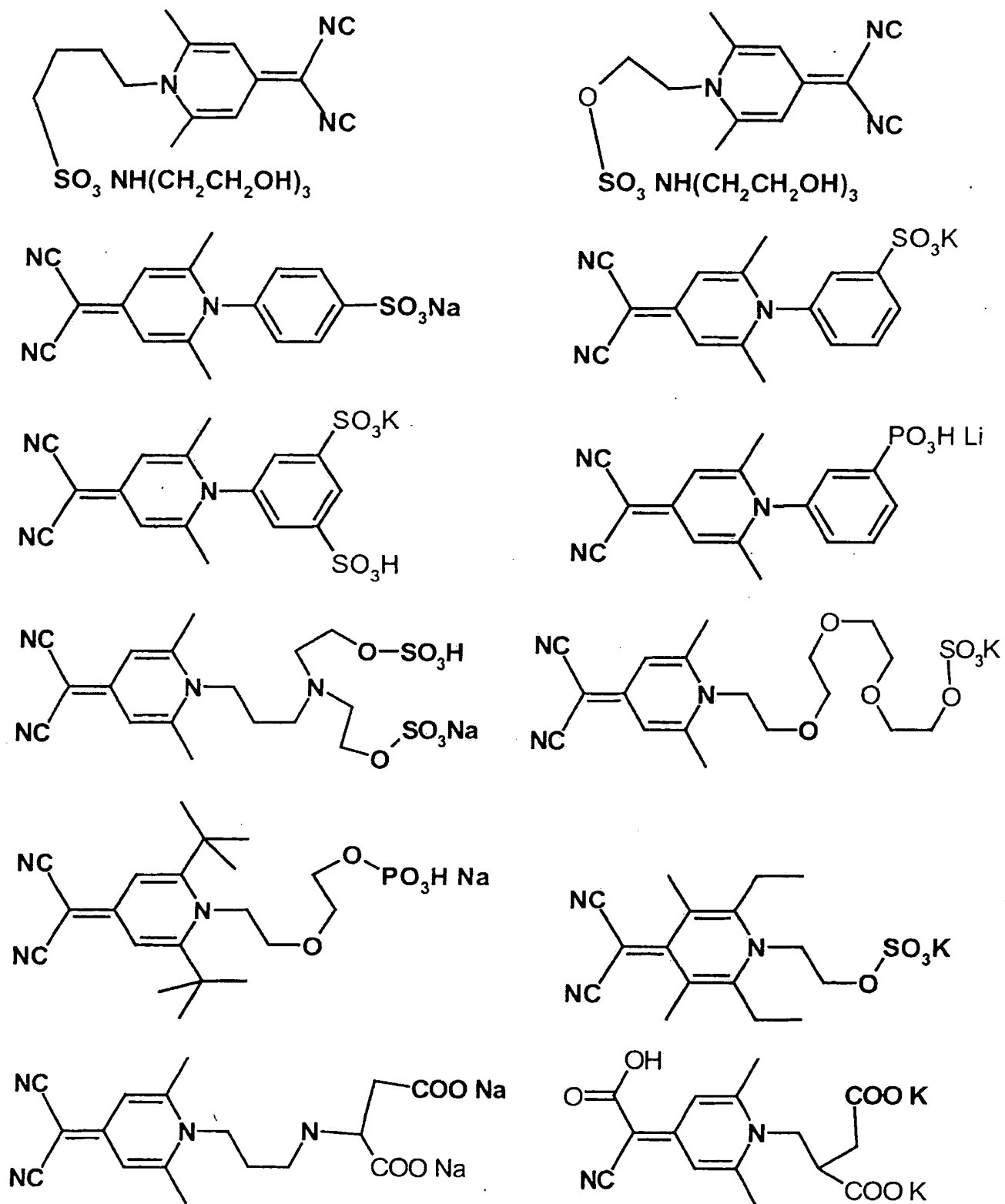
12. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein residue  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are each hydrogen atoms.

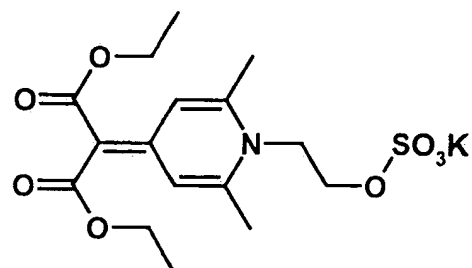
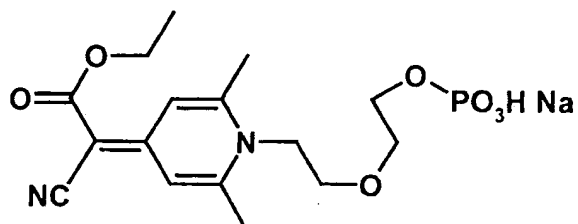
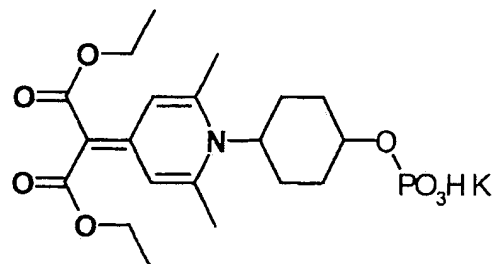
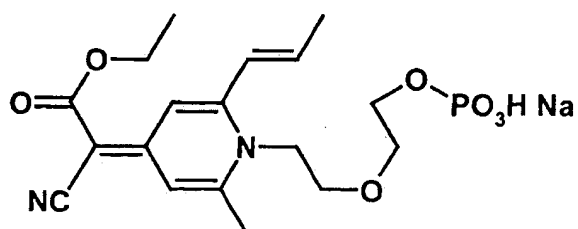
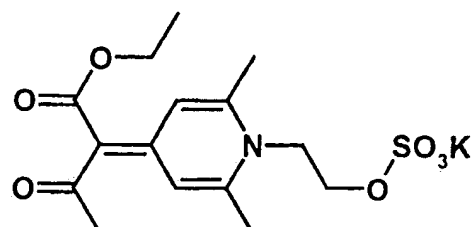
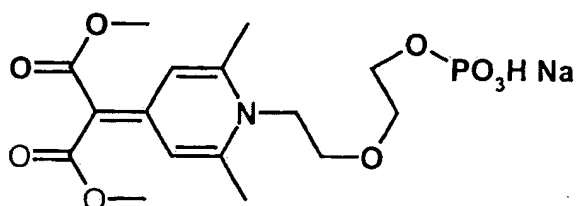
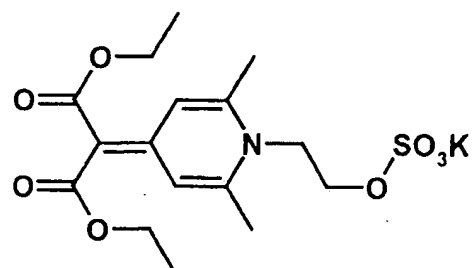
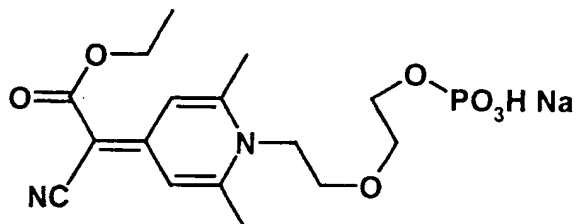
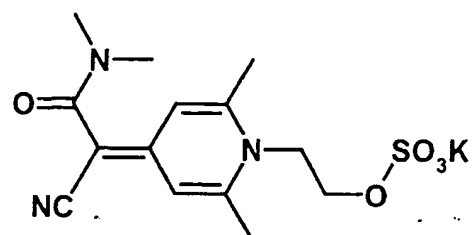
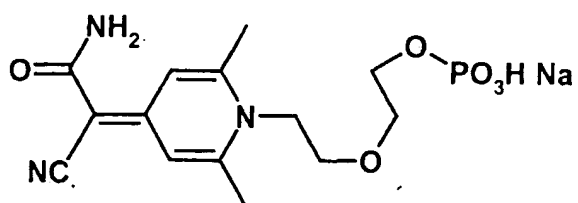
13. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein residues  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  are independently selected from hydrogen atoms and  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl groups.

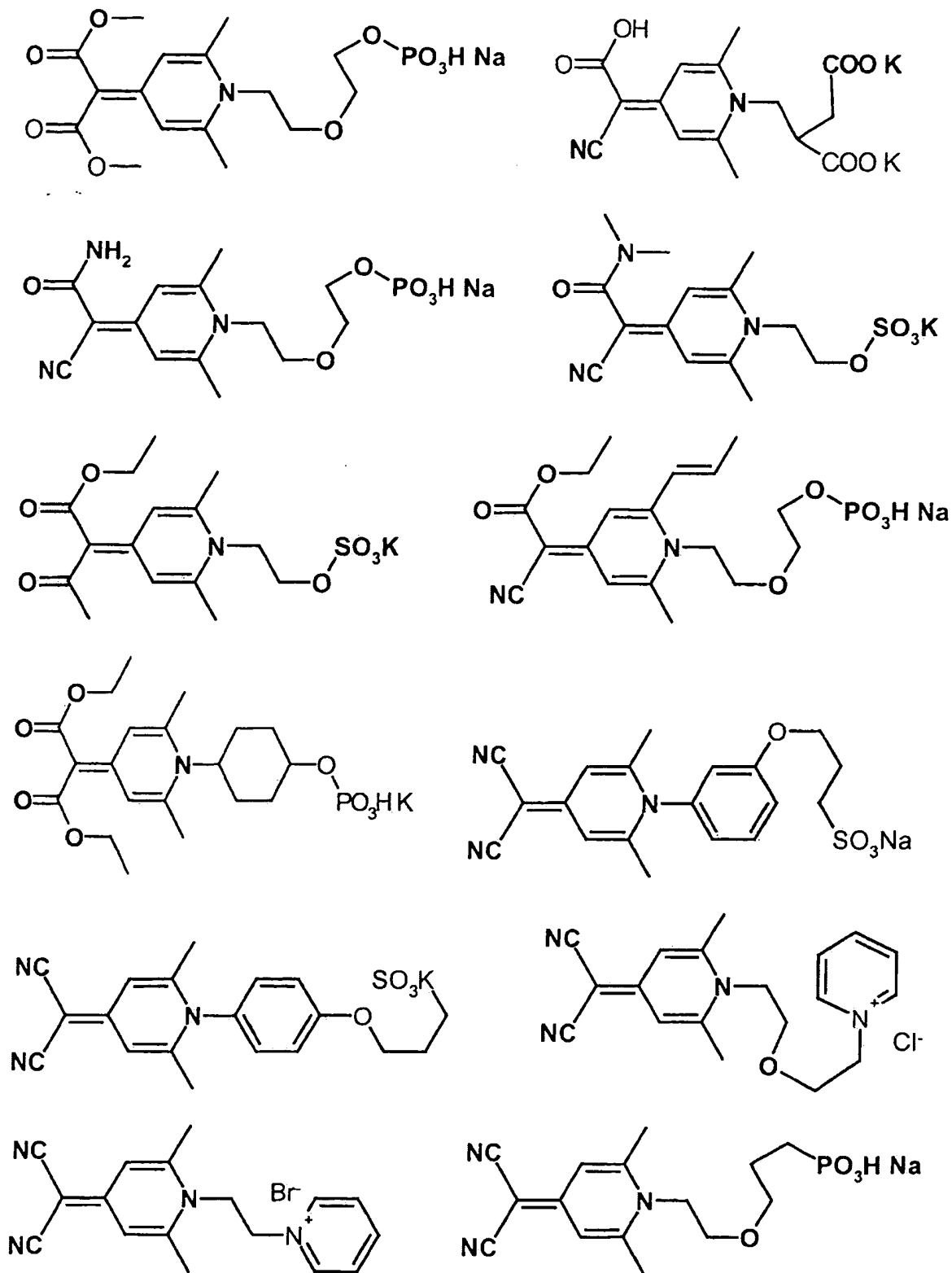
14. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~, wherein residues  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  are both cyano groups.

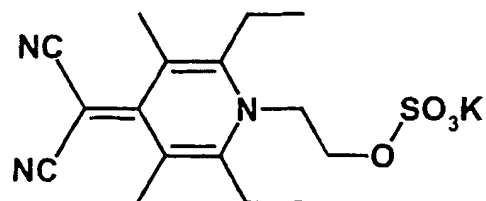
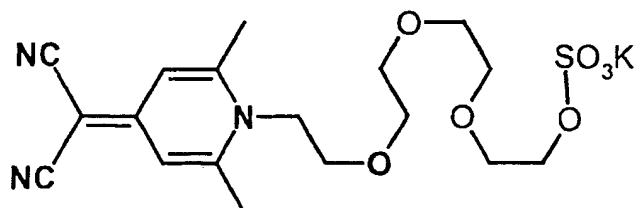
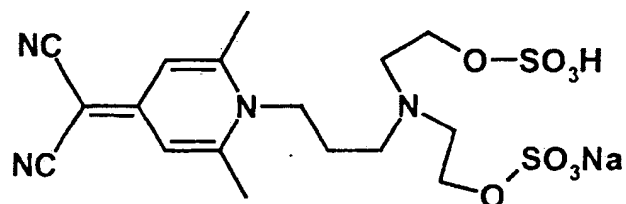
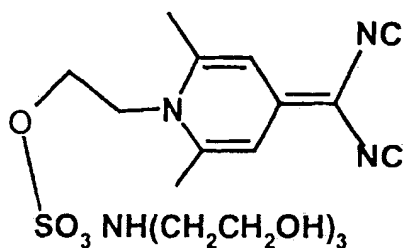
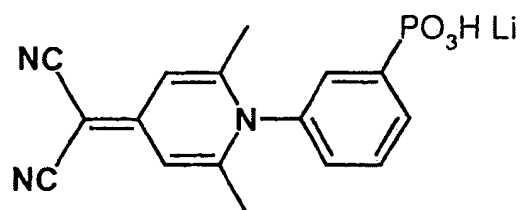
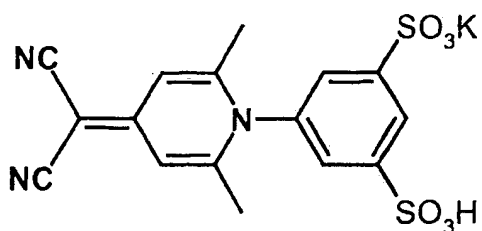
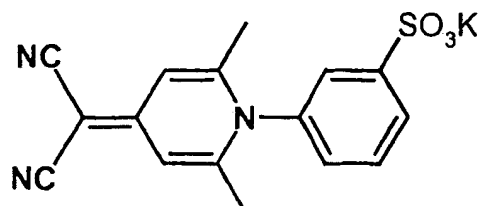
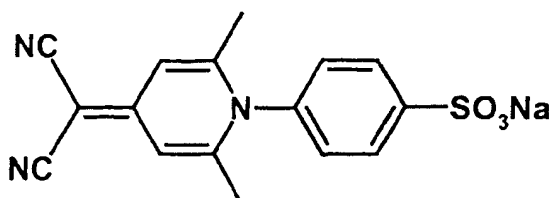
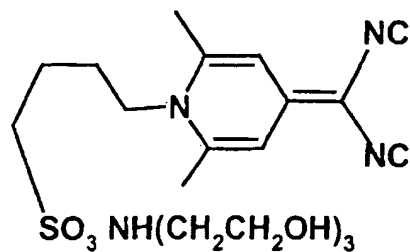
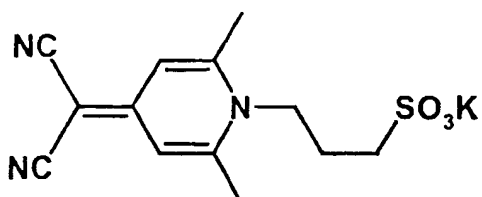
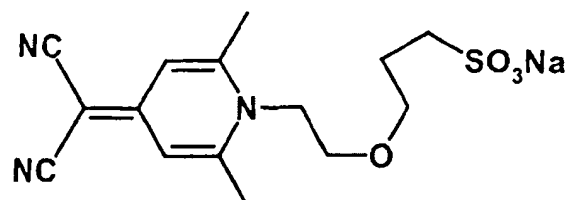
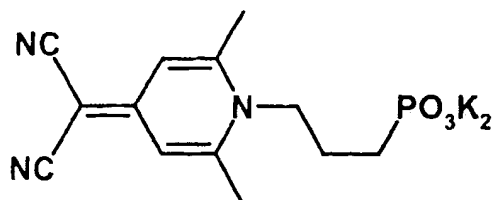
15. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1, namely  
selected from the group consisting of:



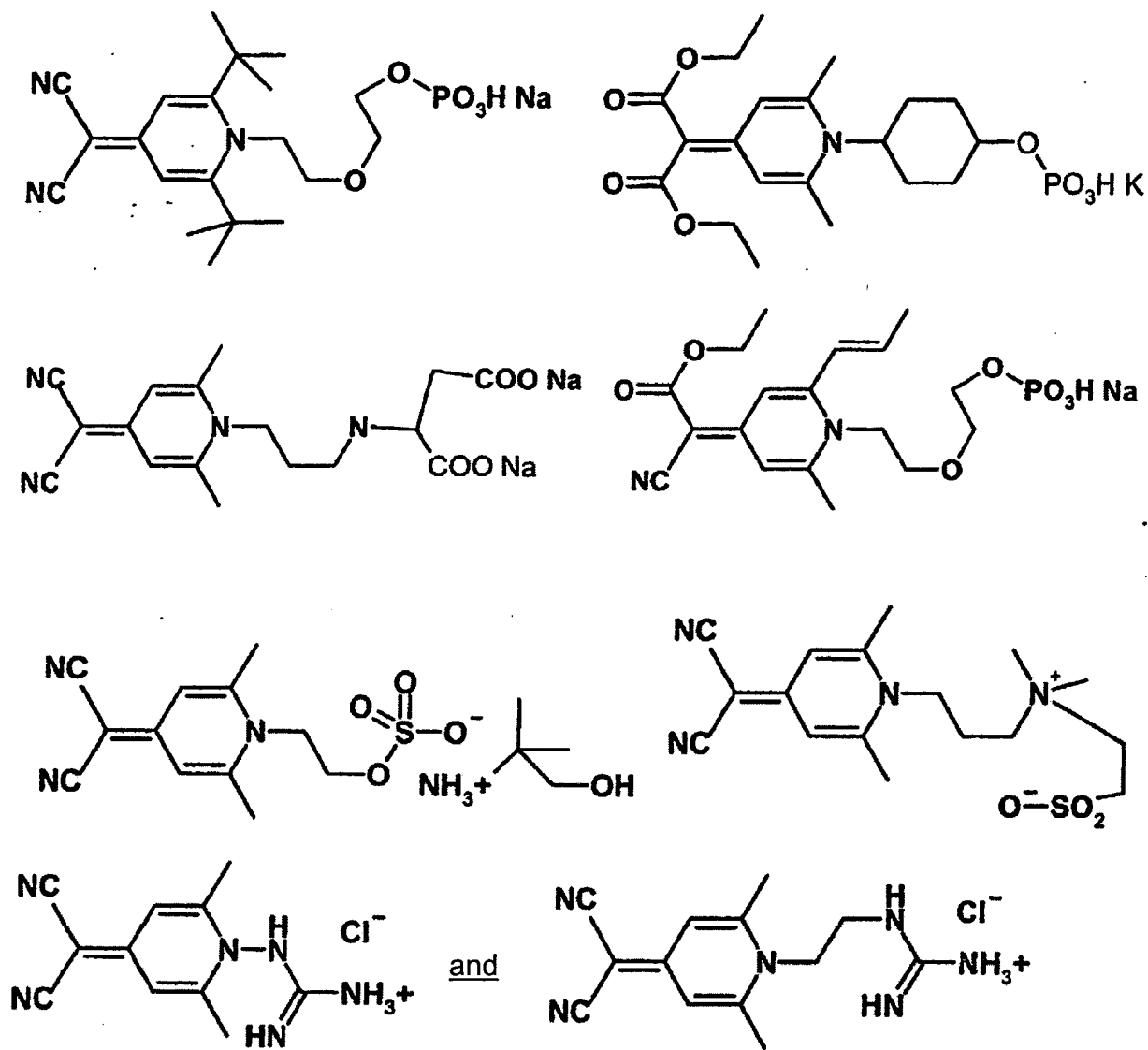












16. (Currently amended): UV-A screening composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~as defined in any of claims 1 to 15.~~

17. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 16, which is a cosmetic composition for protecting skin or hair against UV-A radiation.

18. (Currently amended): UV-A screening composition according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~, comprising one or more additional sunscreens selected from the group consisting of a micronised pigment and a polymeric UV-sunscreen.

19. UV-A screening composition according to claim 18, wherein the micronised pigment is microparticulated  $\text{TiO}_2$  of a particle size of about 5 nm to about 200 nm.

20. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 18, wherein the polymeric UV-sunscreen is an organosiloxane.

21. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 20, wherein the organosiloxane is an organosiloxane which contains benzmalonate groups.

22. (Canceled).